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More attractions, fun abound at Riverfest

VIRGINIA PARLATO
Mishicot News

The 10th annual Mishicot Riverfest has added attractions this year and an extra day of fun. The celebration begins on Thursday, July 26, in the Mishicot Village Park at 4:30 p.m. with Cruise Night. Enjoy the "everything-for-a-buck" meal deals. You won't want to miss the chainsaw carving, live music, carnival rides, classic cars, and the "Thunder Over the East Twin" fireworks at dusk.

Friday's schedule of events includes the Riverfest "Famous Fish Boil Dinner" at 4 p.m. Stick around for the four-wheel drive truck pulls beginning at 5 p.m.

Saturday brings a pancake breakfast starting at 8 a.m. The Mishicot Car Club Show starts at 10 a.m. with more than 200 classic cars on display. At 3 p.m., the People's Choice Awards will be announced. Throughout the day there will be truck and tractor pulls.

Sunday is Family Day. The carnival opens at 11 a.m. and the gigantic parade begins at 11:30 a.m.

www.mishicot.org.

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Mishicot welcomes university students from Russia who are living and working in the village. Six young men and women are here for the summer to experience life in the United States and practice their English language skills. The three young men are studying history and English at Ryazan State University, and the women are studying English at the Vyatka State University of Humanities.

The men arrived in late May. They arrived with no living accommodations and no car. They began to work at Fox Hills Resort and lived there for a few days until a more permanent residence could be found. With the help of Barbara Nack, director of human resources at the resort, they found a house to rent within walking dis-

Submitted by Virginia Parlato

Six Russian university students are living and working in Mishicot this summer. They are, seated from left, Stanislav Yasinkiy, Natalie Tselishcheva, Yuliya Khlebnikova and Olga Tyukalova; and standing from left, Stanislav Dmitriev and Sergey Alyakin.

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Sunday is Family Day. The carnival opens at 11 a.m. and the gigantic parade begins at 11:30 a.m. The Mid Lakes Rustic Iron Antique Tractor Show begins at noon showcasing more than 50 restored tractors. At 12:30 p.m., the Sunshine Kids Stage features the Janice Wiegert Dancers.

The Mishicot FFA will host its petting zoo. At 2:30 p.m., the racing of the ducks down the East Twin River begins. Winners will be announced at 3 p.m.

There surely is something for everyone this weekend in Mishicot. For a complete listing of Riverfest events, go to the village Web site at www.mishicot.org.

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The men arrived in late May. They arrived with no living accommodations and no car. They began to work at Fox Hills Resort and lived there for a few days until a more permanent residence could be found. With the help of Barbara Nack, director of human resources at the resort, they found a house to rent within walking distance of work as well as supplies for the house.

The women arrived in early June and also are working at the resort and live within walking distance.

The students come from areas in Russia where the population is more than 500,000 so it took time to get used to the small size of Mishicot.

They researched coming to the United States through a university program. Their universities contacted Fox Hills inquiring about jobs. The students were assigned jobs that would best fit their language fluency and skills. All speak English very well, but regional dialects and slang cause confusion.

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The women – Yuliya Khlebnikova, Olga Tyukalova and Natalie Tselishcheva – are working as housekeepers, while two of the men – Stanislav Dmitriev and Stanislav Yasinskiy – are in maintenance, and one – Sergey Alyakin – is a restaurant server.

The students have made friends in the area and enjoy seeing the sites. Yuliya relates that going to Summerfest in Milwaukee has been one of their favorite experiences. They are looking forward to doing more sightseeing, listing places like the Mississippi River, Wisconsin Dells and water parks as future destinations.

The students say that they have not become homesick because they "are having fun here." They keep in touch with family and friends at home with e-mail.

Sergey has the chance to talk with Americans more frequently, as his job in the restaurant brings him in constant contact with customers and requires good communication skills. He enjoys his work because of the "interesting conversations" he has with diners. He has met people from Russia and others who have visited his country. Sergey says "Americans are easy to speak to and seem happy because they smile a lot."

The students agree they learn something new every day. One of the differences the six have found in Mishicot as opposed to their Russian homeland is the weather. Whereas their summers will be hotter and remain that way, Mishicot temperatures vary quite a bit, being hot one day and cool the next.

The students will stay in the area until mid-September. All agree that they will miss the friends they have made here and hope to be able to return again someday.

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